NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90) OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property			
historic name St. Matthew's Church			
other names/site number DHR File Number: 028-0038			
2. Location			
street & number Intersection of Route 17, Route 631, and	Route 724 n	ot for publication N/A	
city or town Champlain			vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Essex	code057	Zip <u>22438</u>	
3. State/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the National Historic Pre-			
X nomination request for determination of elig properties in the National Register of Historic Places and mo 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the propertyX me recommend that this property be considered significant continuation sheet for additional comments.)	eets the procedural and	professional requirements	set forth in
Signature of certifying official Date Virginia Department of Historic Resources State or Federal agency and bureau			
In my opinion, the property _X meets does not mee for additional comments.)	t the National Register	criteria. (See continua	ation sheet
Signature of commenting or other official	Date	e	
State or Federal agency and bureau			
4. National Park Service Certification			
I, hereby certify that this property is: entered in the National Register See continuation sheet determined eligible for the National Register		Signature of Kee	per
See continuation sheet determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register other (explain):	Date of Action		

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5. Classification		
Ownership of Property (Check as	many boxes as apply)	
X private	3 11 37	
public-local		
public-State		
public-Federal		
·		
Category of Property (Check only	one box)	
X building(s)	,	
district		
site		
structure		
object		
Number of Resources within Prop	perty	
•	·	
Contributing Noncontributing	7	
1_ buildings	•	
sites		
structures		
objects 1_		
Number of contributing resources pr	reviously listed in the National Regist	ter N/A
Name of related multiple property li	isting (Enter "N/A" if property is not p	part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A		
6. Function or Use		
Historic Functions (Enter categorie		
Cat:	Sub:	
Religion	Religious Facility	_
		
		
Current Functions (Enter categorie	es from instructions)	
Cat:	Sub:	
Commerce/Trade	Specialty Store_	
_00111110100/11111100		
		

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St. Matthew's Church Champlain, Virginia

7. Descript	01
Mic	ral Classification (Enter categories from instructions) 1-19 th Century: Greek Revival
foundat roof walls _	Enter categories from instructions) ion _Brick Metal Brick
other _	
— Narrative I	Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
8. Stateme	nt of Significance
Applicable	National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for gister listing)
A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B X C	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.
Criteria Co	onsiderations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)
A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B	removed from its original location.
C	a birthplace or a grave.
D	a cemetery.
E	a reconstructed building, object or structure.
F	a commemorative property.
G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

St. Matthew's Church Champlain, Virginia

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)Architecture	
Period of Significance	
Period of Significance	
_	
Significant Dates 1860	
1870_	
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)	
Cultural Affiliation	
A LAC OF NA VIVI	
Architect/BuilderNot Known	
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation she	etc)
1 variative Statement of Significance (Explain the Significance of the property on one of more continuation she	icis.)
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography	
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)	
Previous documentation on file (NPS)	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been	
requested.	
previously listed in the National Register	
previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register	
designated a National Historic Landmark	
designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	
Primary Location of Additional Data	
X State Historic Preservation Office	
Other State agency	
Other state agency Federal agency	
Local government	
University	
Other	
Name of repository:	
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property _4.311	
Actuage of Property _4.311	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)	
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northin	
1 325200 _4209250 2	
3 4	

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St. Matthew's Church Champlain, Virginia

See continuation sheet.
Verbal Boundary Description See continuation sheet.
Boundary Justification See continuation sheet.
11. Form Prepared By
name/title: Sarah M. Clarke
Organization:Gray & Pape, Inc date_3/19/2003
street & number: _1705 East Main Street telephone_(804)644-0656
city or town_Richmond state_VA_ zip code _23223
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:
Continuation Sheets
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)
Property Owner
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.) nameGeorge R. and Jennifer J. Acree
street & number_304 Yorknolls Drivetelephone_(301)499-1039
city or town_Capitol Heights state_MD zip code _20743
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. Summary Description:

St. Matthew's Church is located in Essex County, Virginia, in the town of Champlain. Construction on St. Matthew's Church began in 1861; however the Civil War halted work on the building until 1865. St. Matthew's was consecrated in 1870, and served the residents for 100 years, until its conversion to a general store in 1970. St. Matthew's Church sits in rural Essex County at the intersection of Routes 631, 724, and 17. A gravel drive runs east from Route 724, through two rows of trees to the front of the church. Small azalea and rhododendron bushes run along the front of the building. St. Matthew's exterior closely resembles Anglican churches built during the colonial period in Virginia. Its simple rectangular design, use of brick, and unpretentious exterior mirror many of the Anglican Churches built in Virginia 100 years earlier. St. Matthew's Church is a onestory, one-bay, gable-end-entry, rectangular brick building with a traditional east-west orientation. St. Matthew's contains three distinct brick bonds, the foundation is composed of five-course American bond, and the walls are of three-course American bond and Flemish bond. However, the interior of St. Matthew's Church does possess elements that distinguish it as a nineteenth century building. For example, the absence of a projecting pulpit and reader's desk, as well as the lack of a southern entrance are all characteristic of nineteenth century churches. The interior of the building is relatively simple, making the focus worship, not ornamentation. St. Matthew's remains an excellent example of colonial-style architecture built in the nineteenth century.

Detailed Description:

St. Matthew's Church sits on 4.3 acres of land at the intersection of Route 724 and Route 631 in Champlain, Virginia. A narrow, gravel drive leads from Route 724, through two rows of trees, toward St. Matthew's Church. The lot is fairly open with several medium-sized trees in front of the church and evergreens to the side and rear of the building. There is a small, gravel parking area located to the southwest of St. Matthew's Church. The church has the traditional east-west orientation. There are small azalea and rhododendron bushes along the façade of the building. Poured concrete steps provide access to the front entrance of the church.

St. Matthew's Church is a one-story, one-bay brick building containing three different types of brick bonds. The foundation of the church is composed of five-course American bond. This is followed by a section of the three-course American bond, the brickwork then continues in a Flemish bond. There are two wood, two-over-four light arch windows topped with gauged brick, round arches on **Section 7 Page 7**

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the façade of the building. Centered in the front gable end is a diamond-shaped, single light circular window surrounded by narrow gauged brick. The front entrance is a recessed, double-leaf, wood, door with six recessed panels. The door reveal is approximately one foot deep and is composed of recessed panels. A wood screen door and screen transom was added later, making the entrance flush with the building. The wood windows on each side are nine-over-nine light, double-hung sash, resting on a narrow, wood sill and topped with gauged brick, flat arches. There are two sets of exterior, wood shutters on every window on each side of the church. Vertical openings under each window help cool the building during the warm months. The church has two central-interior, brick chimney flues and one interior-end, brick chimney flue. There is a metal stove pipe projecting out from the north elevation of the church. Standing-seam metal covers the gable roof.

There are two additions to St. Matthew's Church. A one-story, five-course American bond brick, gable roof addition along the rear of the building, and a one-story, concrete block and frame, shed roof addition on the north elevation. In addition, there is a one-story, one-bay concrete porch with square wood posts that support a standing-seam metal shed roof along the rear elevation of the church.

St. Matthew's Church interior is simple with no elaborate detailing or artistry. A heavy entablature supported by two pilasters announces the entrance to the chancel. Steps leading to the chancel contain an alter rail with lacelike brackets and turned spindles. A small winder staircase in the southwest corner of the church provides access to the gallery. The gallery runs the entire width of the church and is supported by two wood, fluted Doric columns. The gallery balustrade is decorated with recessed panels. The plaster and lath walls appear to be in good condition. There are two, wood doors with four recessed panels on both the north and south side of the chancel. The door to the north leads to the concrete block addition, the door to the south opens into a small room, which probably once served as the sacristy. The door to the south has decorative wood graining, as well as a porcelain knob and metal lock. The door surrounds are very simple, while the window surrounds are larger and contain decorative beading. The baseboards are approximately six inches in height and are composed of mitered boards. The baseboards along the east and west elevations are beaded, while the north and south baseboards are plain. The unusual ceiling is composed of angled tongue and groove boards that are varnished to a high shine. St. Matthew's Church has a king post truss, a support system often used in light construction.

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The interior of the church has been altered slightly with the addition of modern conveniences. Two heaters were added at the top of the pilasters in front of the entablature in the chancel. The current owners installed an additional heater in the gallery. All of the pews, hymn boards, and other church furniture were removed when St. Anne's Parish sold the building in 1970. Originally there were three wood burning stoves in the church, however those were also removed.

St. Matthew's Church combines architectural characteristics of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The unadorned exterior mirrors many of the Anglican churches of Colonial Virginia, while the interior emulates architectural styles of the nineteenth century. St. Matthew's is a good example of church architecture in Virginia.

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Statement of Significance

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture and religion because it is a good example of church architecture in Virginia. The period of significance for St. Matthew's Church is 1860-1953, this covers the construction of the building and the period the church was used for religious services. Construction began on St. Matthew's Church in 1861; however the Civil War halted work on the building until 1865, the church was officially consecrated in 1870. The last church service held in the building was in 1957 and the church was deconsecrated in 1970. St. Matthew's Church currently serves as an antique store. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is demonstrative of the revival of the Episcopal Church that occurred in the early- to mid-nineteenth century. The Anglican Church dominated every aspect of life for the citizens of colonial Virginia. However, the victory by the colonists during the Revolutionary War resulted in the dis-establishment of the Anglican Church in this country. More evangelical faiths like Baptist and Methodist were gaining in popularity in post-Revolutionary War Virginia. In addition, many citizens of Virginia resented the Anglican Church because of its British orientation and the belief that it favored the upper or gentry class. The Anglican Church experienced a revival in the early-nineteenth century that sparked renewed interest in the faith, as well as church building. St. Matthew's Church, whose construction began in 1861, was a result of this revival. The architecture of St. Matthew's reflects that found in earlier colonial churches, harking back to the hey day of the Anglican Church in Virginia. Thus St. Matthew's Church lends an air of legitimacy and continuity to the Episcopal Church in Essex County, Virginia.

Historical Background

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is located in the hamlet of Champlain in Essex County, Virginia, in what was once St. Anne's Parish. Essex County was formed from Rappahannock County in 1692. Essex County, like many of the counties in colonial Virginia, had an agriculturally based economy that consistent primarily of tobacco. This tradition would continue until the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries when corn and wheat replaced tobacco. Essex County, like the rest of colonial Virginia, took its law and religion from England. However, the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 would forever shake the foundation of English rule and influence in Virginia. By the early-nineteenth century, Essex County experienced a dramatic transition in its institutions of government and religion.

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The Church of England (Anglican) has maintained a presence in Virginia and Essex County since the seventeenth century. During the Colonial period, the Church of England was the only legal and recognized church in Virginia. A majority of the ministers that served in Virginia churches received their training in England and then assumed their posts in the colony. The Church experienced phenomenal growth in Virginia prior to the Revolutionary War; in fact by 1774 there were 95 parishes in the colony. During the eighteenth century, parishes constructed churches at an impressive rate. Church historian George MacLaren Brydon estimates that by 1776 there were 250 extant

churches in the colony of Virginia. Many of these buildings replaced earlier structures one, two, three, or even four times over.²

The growth and prominence of the Anglican Church in Virginia came to an abrupt end with the start of the Revolutionary War. The Revolutionary War made it difficult to collect taxes and tithes and many parishes found themselves unable to pay ministers and make necessary repairs to the churches.³ The status of the Anglican Church continued to decline with to the defeat of the British in the war, the Great Awakening and the evangelical church movement in the late eighteenth century.⁴ The end of the Revolutionary War spelled the end of the state sponsored Anglican Church. Religions like Baptist and Methodist grew in popularity because of their appeal to the average Virginia citizen, unlike the Episcopal faith, which many Virginians viewed as supporting the upper class gentry. In addition, the Virginia General Assembly passed the Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom, legalizing other religions in the state. An act passed in 1801 allowed for the sale of Anglican Church property with the money going to the overseers of the poor.⁵ With the passage of the Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom, many Baptists petitioned the Virginia General Assembly to sell Anglican Church properties built with taxes collected from the general populace.⁶ By the late-

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eighteenth century, the Anglican Church in Virginia found itself quickly replaced by more evangelical faiths.⁷

The revitalization of the Anglican faith and the transition in America from the Church of England to the Protestant Episcopal Church began in 1787 with the ordination of three American bishops. The act of ordination made the separation with the Church of England complete, creating the American institution the Protestant Episcopal Church.⁸ In the early-nineteenth century, the Episcopal Church experienced a revival, this was especially so in Essex County. In 1825, Rev. John Peyton McGuire was appointed the new minister to St. Anne's Parish; the Parish had been without a minister for over twenty-five years. Rev. McGuire resurrected the Episcopal congregations in Essex County by applying many of the evangelic methods that made the Baptist and Methodist religions so appealing to the citizens of the county. Foremost among these was the use of aggressive ministries, which sought out the average citizens of Essex County. Two new churches were built during Rev. McGuire's time as minister, St. Paul's, near Miller's Tavern in 1838-1839, and St. John's in Tappahannock in 1849.⁹

Beginning in 1857, the minister to St. Anne's Parish, the Rev. Edward Brown McGuire recognized the need for a church in the lower end of the parish. The last church to serve this area was Sale's Church constructed in 1725; it was demolished following the end of the Revolutionary War. The land for the new church came from the estate of Bevan D. Pitts. The executors of Bevin D. Pitts' estate, Leonard P. Sale and Dandridge Sale stated that Pitts desired to donate one acre of land "for the purpose of erecting thereon a Protestant Episcopal Church." The land was sold to St. Anne's Parish in 1860 for one dollar. Construction on St. Matthew's Church began in 1861 and Rev. Edward Brown McGuire reported that the building would soon be complete. However, the Civil

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War suspended construction on the church until 1865, when work began again on the edifice. St. Matthew's was officially consecrated on May 5, 1870 by Bishop John Jones, the Rev. Dr. Charles Goodrich, then rector of St. Anne's Parish, and the Rev. William Friend. The sturdy, rectangular, brick church was constructed in a style almost identical to those churches built during the Colonial era in Virginia. ¹³ By creating an architectural tie with the past, the builders of St. Matthew's Church asserted their belief that the Episcopal Church was alive and well in Virginia. However, the interior of St. Matthew's Church is characteristic of many of the new Baptist and Methodist churches built during the nineteenth century. The pulpit and reading desk, which once sat to the side of the congregation, was moved to the front of the church and placed in the chancel. In addition, the more ornamental pews and private boxes were replaced with rows of pews. This arrangement attempts to take the socio-economic hierarchy out of the church. Individuals and families no longer purchased private boxes close to the pulpit, everyone sat together. 14 Three other Episcopal churches constructed during this Episcopal revival in Virginia include; St. John's Church in Amelia County built in the mid-nineteenth century, Christ Episcopal in Albemarle County built in 1831-1832, and St. Stephens's in Bedford County built in 1844. All of these churches are of brick construction and possess a gable-end-entry. However, the architectural styles are different from St. Matthew's Church austere design. St. John's Church is a Gothic Revival building, while Christ Episcopal and St. Stephen's are both Greek Revival. 15

St. Matthew's Church served Episcopalians in Essex County for 100 years. However, by the midtwentieth century, St. Matthew's role in St. Anne's Parish began to wane and the last church service held in the building was the funeral of R. Bland Beverley in 1957. On October 7, 1970, Bishop Samuel B. Chilton, the Rev. Ralph E. Fall, and eight members of Vauter's Episcopal Church witnessed the reading of the "Sentence of De-Consecration of St. Matthew's Church." That same month, St. Anne's Parish sold the property to Herman Purcell for \$10,000. The pews and furnishings were either sold to St. Margaret's School in Tappahannock, or taken by local citizens. Herman Purcell converted St. Matthew's Church to a general store. He owned the property until his death in 1987, when his sons Raymond E. Purcell and Warren W. Purcell inherited the property.

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That same year, Raymond and Warren Purcell sold the property to George and Jennifer Acree, the current owners.¹⁷ St. Matthew's Church is currently used an antique store.

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End Notes

- 1 James B. Slaughter, Settlers, Southerners, Americans: The History of Essex County, Virginia, 1608-1984, Salem, West Virginia: Don Mills, Inc., 1985, 18.
- 2 Dell Upton, *Holy Things and Profane: Anglican Parish Churches in Colonial Virginia*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 1986, xiv.
- 3 Ibid., xiv.
- 4 Ibid., xviii.
- 5 Rhys Isaac, *The Transformation of Virginia 1740-1790*, Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1982, 313.
- 6 Slaughter, 76-80.
- 7 Upton, xviii.
- ⁸ New Advent, found at www.newadvent.org, accessed May 21, 2003.
- 9 Slaughter, 109-110.
- 10 Jennifer J. Acree, Preliminary Information Form for St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, August 1992, Copy on File at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

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- 11 Slaughter, 20.
- 12 Essex County Deeds, Deed Book 51, Page 468, Essex County Courthouse, Tappahannock, Virginia.
- 13 Upton, 97.
- 14 Issac, 315.
- 15 Calder Loth (ed.), *The Virginia Landmarks Register 4th Edition*, Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia, 1999, 10, 35, 65.
- 16 Acree, Preliminary Information Form.
- 17 Essex County Deeds, Deed Book 180, Page 709, Essex County Courthouse, Tappahannock, Virginia.

Bibliography

- Acree, Jennifer. Preliminary Information Form for St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. Copy on File at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. October 1992.
- Isaac, Rhys. *The Transformation of Virginia 1740-1790*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1982.
- Loth, Calder (ed.). *The Virginia Landmarks Register*, 4th Edition. Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia, 1999.
- New Advent. Found at www.newadvent.org. Accessed May 21, 2003.
- Slaughter, James B. Settlers, Southerners, Americans: The History of Essex County, Virginia 1608-1984. Salem, West Virginia: Don Mills, Inc., 1985.
- Upton, Dell. *Holy Things and Profane: Anglican Parish Churches in Colonial Virginia*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 1986.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for St. Matthew's Church encompasses four and one-third acres (4 1/3). It includes all of the land included in tax parcel Section 19, Lot 31. See attached map for boundaries.

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Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries for St. Matthew's Church include all of the land associated with the original parcel of land originally given to St. Anne's Parish by Bevin D. Pitts in 1861. The area included in the boundaries contains St. Matthew's Church, as well as what appears to be the original drive leading to the front of the building.

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These photographs were taken by Sarah M. Clarke in April 2003. The negatives are on file at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA.

- 1 of 8 St. Matthew's Church, façade and south elevation, view facing northeast. Neg. # 20454.
- 2 of 8 St. Matthew's Church, façade and north elevation, view facing southeast. Neg. #20454.
- 3 of 8 St. Matthew's Church, north elevation, view facing southwest. Neg. # 20454.
- 4 of 8 St. Matthew's Church, east elevation, view facing northwest. Neg. #20454.
- 5 of 8 St. Matthew's Church, south elevation, view facing northwest. Neg. # 20454.
- 6 of 8 St. Matthew's Church, east end of church featuring chancel, view facing east. Neg. # 20455.
- 7 of 8 St. Matthew's Church, west end of church featuring the gallery, view facing west. Neg. #20456.
- 8 of 8 St. Matthew's Church, front entrance, view facing west. Neg. # 20455.

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All slides were taken by Sarah M. Clarke, April 2003.

- 1. St. Matthew's Church, view facing northeast.
- 2. St. Matthew's Church, façade, view facing east.
- 3. St. Matthew's Church, north elevation, view facing southwest.
- 4. St. Matthew's Church, east elevation, view facing northwest.
- 5. St. Matthew's Church, south elevation, view facing north.
- 6. St. Matthew's Church, chancel, view facing east.
- 7. St. Matthew's Church, door in chancel, view facing southeast.
- 8. St. Matthew's Church, first floor from gallery, view facing east.
- 9. St. Matthew's Church, gallery, view facing west.
- 10. St. Matthew's Church, stairs leading to gallery, view facing south.
- 11. St. Matthew's Church, detail of ceiling woodwork.